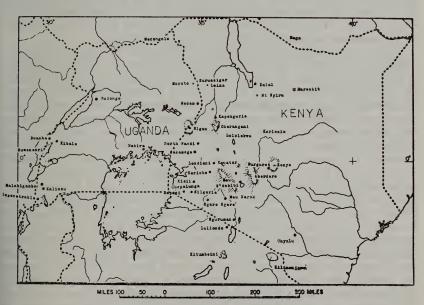
New races of montane birds from Kenya and southern Sudan

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In November-December 1978 and 1979 two joint collecting trips were made by the Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien (NMW) and the National Museum, Nairobi (NMN), Kenya, to the North Nandi Forest, Western Kenya, 0° 20'N, 34° 58'E at some 2400 m, 75 miles southwest of Mt Elgon. As far as we are aware no serious collecting has been undertaken in this isolated montane forest, though Sir Frederick Jackson (1938) collected in "Nandi", a locality "20 miles north of Kibigori Station" (on the Kenya railway, south of Kisumu on Lake Victoria). The forest of Nandi (=South Nandi), some 60 miles south of North Nandi at 2130 m is now virtually destroyed and replaced by tea plantations.



Map showing majority of locations mentioned in text.

The NMN collection includes series taken in 1962 on Mt Loima, Muruasigar, west of Lake Turkana, near the Uganda border and Mt Kadam. Mt Loima rises to 2100 m and is well forested at the upper levels. These and the North Nandi series have been compared with examples from Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and in some cases with material from Rwanda and Zaire. For the loan of comparative material we wish to thank the British Museum (Natural History), Tring (BMNH, I. C. J. Galbraith), the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago (FMNH, D. E. Willard), the Institute

Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique (IRSNB, A. Prigogine), the American Museum of Natural History, New York (AMNH, L. L. Short), the Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles (LACM, R. Schreiber), and The Museum Alexander Koenig, Bonn (MAKB, H. E. Wolters). Wings were measured as flattened chords, all measurements being in mm. Bill measurements were of the exposed culmen. Colour references are Ridgway (1912) "Color Standards and Nomenclature", Washington.

TURDUS ABYSSINICUS Olive Thrush

When specimens were set out in series by localities to take account of the major plumage characters, throat/chest, flanks/belly and back colours, it was apparent that there was a sharp division between extremely pale birds from Morongole, Loima, Karissia and the Nguruman Range and those from other areas. Pale, but less so, and distinct from typical abyssinicus were examples from the Imatong Mts, grading through Mt Kulal, Marsabit, Lololokwi (Uraguess) to a darker complex from North Nandi, Mt Elgon, Mt Kenya, Aberdare Range, Mau and Londiani, the last locality producing the darkest specimens overall. A distinctly "brown" group occurs in the Chyulu Range, with deckeni of Kilimanjaro dark and baraka from Ruwen-

zori, Uganda the darkest. Nevertheless there are intergrades.

White (1962) includes in the range of abyssinicus Mt Elgon, the Kenya Highlands to Londiani, south to Loliondo, Tanzania, but he omits mention of the pale polius from Mt Marsabit and Mt Lololokwi. Sclater (1930) also did not recognise polius but the race is upheld by Friedmann (Benson 1946). Van Someren (1939) included Mt Kulal, Marsabit and Mt Nyiru in the range of polius and in addition recognised the race elgonensis, the range of the latter including Cherangani Range, Mau, Mt Kenya, Aberdare Range and (according to Moreau, in van Someren 1939) Longido and Kitumbeini in Tanzania. Friedmann (1966) accepted both polius and elgonensis as distinct from abyssinicus but considered (1969) Mt Nyiru birds to be abyssinicus together with (1967) pale birds from the Karissia Hills. Our Karissia specimens are however clearly not abyssinicus. We recognise abyssinicus from Ethiopia but also take note of birds from Mega, Southern Ethiopia, which Benson (1946) placed near polius and with which we tentatively associate birds from Kulal, Marsabit and from the type locality, Lololokwi. (Mega birds have not been seen by us.) We recognise elgonensis and consider provisionally that its range includes Cherangani Range, Mt Kenya, Aberdare and possibly the Mau. We accept chyuluensis as being quite distinct and altogether browner than other races but approaching deckeni. Specimens from the Imatong we provisionally place with abyssinicus. Three specimens in NMN from Londiani are puzzling since they so nearly resemble the Mau population (? elgonensis), yet nearly match baraka of the Ruwenzori Range, and are somewhat similar to oldeani of the Crater Highlands of Tanzania. We find that birds from the North Nandi and Mt Loima are distinct differing from all other races.

We now propose 2 new subspecies.

Turdus abyssinicus fuscatus subsp. nov.

Holotype: & Reg. No. 17597/808 in National Museum, Kenya. Field No. 299. Collected on track Kipsamoiti-Kamwega, North Nandi Forest, Western

Kenya, 0° 20'N, 34° 58'E, at 2133 m by Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien and National Museum, Kenya joint expedition on 19.xi.1978.

Description: Throat to breast Hair Brown, throat with a few dark streaks. Undertail coverts and thighs grey with white central shaft. Head and back, Blackish Brown. Wings slightly blacker, tail black. Bill orange, legs dirty orange. Iris dark brown. Wing 109.0 mm, tail 98.0 mm. Bill 21.0 mm.

The darkest, blackest-backed and dark chested form amongst Kenya montane forest populations. Considerably darker than *elgonensis* from nearby Mt Elgon. Chest is greyer, flanks paler but back darker than nominate

abyssinicus.

Weight and measurements: Holotype weighed 60.5 g. Paratypes: 3 Reg. No. 17600/808, wing 109.0 mm, weight 67.0 g; 3 Reg. No. 17598/808, wing 112.0 mm, weight 58.0 g; % Reg. No. 17601/808, wing 117.0 mm, weight 65.5 g; % Reg. No. 17602/808, wing 107.0 mm, weight 57.0 g; % Reg. No. 17599/808, wing 102.0 mm, weight 62.0 g. All collected at the same site as the holotype between 12.xi. and 6.xii. 1978. All in NMN. In 1979, 2 more specimens which were secured in the same forest but further south near Chemisia, 0° 15′N, 35° 00′E, match the type series.

Turdus abyssinicus mwaki subsp. nov.

Holotype: & Reg. No. 12253/808, in National Museum, Nairobi, Kenya. Collected on Mt. Loima, Muruasigar, West Turkana, Kenya, 3° 02'N, 35° 00'E, at 2133 m on 8.xi.1962 by Joseph Mwaki for A. D. Forbes-Watson.

Description: Throat to breast Mouse Grey, slightly more darkly streaked on throat. Flanks and belly Tawny Olive, some white towards the crissum. Head, back and outer web of wings, Fuscous. Rump paler grey. Tail slightly darker. Under-tail coverts white edged grey. Legs Orange. Bill orange-red.

Weight and measurements: Wing 115.0 mm, tail 93.0 mm, bill 21.0 mm. Paratypes: 12 33 and 3 99 collected on Mt Loima between 22.x. and 8.xi.1962 by Joseph Mwaki. Wings: 33, 104, 105, 105, 108, 109, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113,

and 114.0 mm, 99 101, 111 and 117.0 mm. All in NMN.

The palest form on ventral and dorsal surfaces and closest to *polius* of Mearns (1913) is from Lololokwi (Uraguess) and is far less richly coloured than typical *abyssinicus*. With this race we include 2 &δ from Morongole, Eastern Uganda at 3° 49′N, 34° 20′E at 2538 m, taken by the Oxford University Expedition on 4 and 6.ix.1966, in NMN, with wings of 110 and 114.0 mm. Also associated are 3 specimens collected by A. L. Archer on 22.ix.1974 from Karissia Hills, Kenya, at c. 1830 m: 2 &δ with wings 105 and 107.0 mm and one \$\Pi\$ with wing 103.0 mm. These 3 localities are isolated ranges. It is possible that Friedmann's (1966) specimens from Mt Moroto, Uganda at c. 2640 m, which he referred to as *polius*, are really examples of this new race. We consider that birds from the other isolated ranges east of the Rift Valley are *polius*.

Amongst specimens loaned by the BMNH was one collected in 1900 by W. G. Doggett for Sir Harry Johnston (field no. 106), labelled "Entebbe", April. The locality however should read N'dabibi, which is northwest of Lake Naivasha, Kenya. N'dabibi, in 1900 was within the Uganda Pro-

tectorate.

This new race is named for Joseph Mwaki, collector and skinner for many years for A. D. Forbes-Watson and later for the NMN.

POGONOCICHLA STELLATA White-starred Forest Robin

While working over the collections in order to establish the identity of our specimens of this species from the North Nandi, which we naturally at first thought would be near elgonensis of Ogilvie-Grant (1911) from Mt Elgon, our birds proved to have black and yellow tails and not the all-black tail of the adult of the Mt Elgon race. We also had some comparative material from the Imatong Mts, Southern Sudan, by courtesy of Major Melvin Traylor (FMNH). Cave & MacDonald (1955) referred their birds from the Imatong to the race guttifer Reichenow & Neumann (1895) from Mt. Kilimanjaro. However FMNH Imatong birds differ markedly from all other forms occurring in Eastern Africa. Moreau (1951b) included the Imatong group on the Sudan-Uganda border in the range of keniensis of Mearns, 1911, as well as Mt Nyiru and Kulal, while Friedmann & Stager (1969) referred their Mt Nyiru birds to guttifer. Having put out a series of all presumed races, intergrades or intermediate forms in geographical order it is quite clear to us that birds from the Imatong are not guttifer, keniensis or elgonensis, and they also differ from specimens from Mt. Kulal. White (1962) on the other hand, includes Imatong birds along with Kulal and Garguess and the Kenya Highlands under *intensa* of Sharpe, 1901.

In view of the confusion over the validity and distribution of the races of *P. stellata* in Eastern Africa we propose to give these pale yellow-bellied

birds from the Imatong subspecific status as

Pogonocichla stellata pallidiflava subsp. nov.

Holotype: 3, Reg. No. 298521 in Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, U.S.A. Collected at Gilo, Imatong Mountains, Southern Sudan, 4°02'N, 32°51'E, at 2100 m, by M. Traylor on 3.iii.1977.

Description: Head, ear coverts, throat, Dark Plumbeous. White supraorbital spot, large. Throat spot white, outlined in black. Breast to belly and flanks, undertail coverts all Primuline Yellow. Paler than birds from Mt Kulal, Kenya Highlands to Tanzania and the races elgonensis, keniensis, macarthuri, helleri, orientalis and guttifer. Tail jet black with Primuline Yellow base to all rectrices save the central pair. Black tips of 11.0–13.0 mm on the inner webs. Tails brighter yellow than in other races, not ochraceous. Back Dark Citrine, with Primuline Yellow rump. Wings, primaries and secondaries dark Purplish Grey. Secondaries, outer webs blue-grey edged olive. Coverts faintly edged blue-grey and olive tipped. Outer webs of primaries light blue-grey.

Weight and measurements: Wing 77.0 mm, tail 60.0 mm, bill 12.0 mm. Paratypes: 3 Reg. No. 298515, wing 71.5 mm, weight 18.0 g; \$\phi\$ Reg. No. 298520, wing 71.5 mm, weight 18.0 g; \$\phi\$ Reg. No. 298519, wing 69.0 mm, weight 18.0 g; Unsexed Reg. No. 298522, wing 72.5 mm, weight 15.8 g; Unsexed, Reg. No. 298518, wing 71.5 mm, weight 17.0 g. All from Gilo, in FMNH, collected around the same date as the holotype. In addition there is one \$\phi\$ No. 3003, topotype, collected Gilo, 24.vi.1978 by G. Nikolaus, in NMN, wing 73.0 mm, weight 16.5 g. The very pale yellow of the ventral surface and the

very black and Primuline Yellow tail of this race distinguishes it from all other East African races.

ALETHE POLIOCEPHALA Brown-chested Alethe

Comparative material of this species in NMN includes topotypical specimens of the race *ufipae* from Mbisi, Ufipa, southwest Tanzania; *akeleyae* from Burguret, Meru and Mt Kenya; *carruthersi* from Toro, Mpanga and Mabira Forests of Uganda; a series from the low Bwamba Forest (Ruwenzori-Semliki), Uganda; some from Kakamega Forest, Western Kenya; and specimens from Mt Elgon. We have compared these with our series from the North Nandi Forest and Mt Imatong of Southern Sudan. It is at once clear

that birds from the latter 2 localities do not match any described race.

Chapin (1953) lists carruthersi as from Toro, Beni (Zaire), and the Lotti forest of the Imatong, while Cave & MacDonald (1955) also refer the Sudan birds to carruthersi. Jackson (1938) gives the range of carruthersi as "east to Nandi and slopes of Mt. Elgon". Our series does not substantiate this wide distribution and we suggest that carruthersi should be maintained for birds of the lower altitudes in Uganda and western populations generally; and that akeleyae should be the race confined to the Kenya Highlands (except Mt. Elgon and the forest of Kakamega). The population in the North Nandi forest does not agree with birds from nearby Mt. Elgon or Kakamega, the Kakamega birds being nearer to carruthersi and the Mt. Elgon birds intermediate. However, though we only have 2 specimens from which to judge, they do not match akeleyae either. The North Nandi birds compared with carruthersi are altogether paler, duskier on the underside with backs darker and not so rich brown. In akeleyae, the marked chestband separates this from the other races. Imatong birds are close to those from North Nandi, but are easily separable, having an almost white belly, dark black heads and more olive backs with a buff chestband.

We propose to assign the North Nandi birds to a new race.

Alethe poliocephala nandensis subsp. nov.

Holotype: & Reg. No. 17700/778, Field No. 368, in National Museum, Nairobi, Kenya. Collected on the track from Kamwega to Kipsamoiti, North Nandi Forest, 0° 20'N, 34° 58'E, at 2133 m by Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien and National Museum, Kenya joint expedition on 22.xi.1978.

Description: Head Sooty Black. Black pre-ocular spot and grey supercillium. Nape, back to rump Brussels Brown, more olive than Imatong birds. Tail black. Wings fuscous, primaries with outer web narrowly edged brown. Secondaries outer webs Brussels Brown, faintly cross barred. Coverts, edged and tipped Brussels Brown. Throat white, faint breast band of Deep Olive Buff, paler than the Imatong birds. Belly white faintly tinged creamy. Flanks greyish, paler than Imatong birds.

Distinguished by its lack of a marked chestband from akeleyae and by the pale chestband of carruthersi and from both by the tone of brown of the

back.

Weight and measurements: wing, 88.5 mm, tail, 57.0 mm, bill, 11.5 mm. In the field, iris brown, bill black, feet pinkish-grey. Weight 27.0 g. Paratypes: taken in the same area over the period 9.xi to 20.iii.1978: 25 33 wings mean

86.0 (80.5-91) mm, 15 \$\varphi\$, wings 84.83 (82.0-90.0) mm and 10 sub-adult. Mean weights of adult &\varphi\$, 27.8 (25.5-32.5) g and of adult \$\varphi\$\$ 28.5 (26.0-31.0)g.

Juvenile/sub-adult: one North Nandi juvenile just moulting its sub-adult plumage is very much darker than the comparable stage of akeleyae, the spots being rufous with a broad base and an edge of jet black, whereas akeleyae is a light buff, the spots with darker brown edges and all spots less bold and narrower.

A small series taken in 1979 in the same forest, but further south near Chemisia, 0° 15'N, 35° 00'E, match the type series. Some specimens of the 2 collections will be deposited in the Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien.

Specimens from the Imatong Mountains, Southern Sudan, with which *nandensis* has been compared, are to us distinct and so we propose a new race.

Alethe poliocephala giloensis subsp. nov.

Holotype: 3, Reg. No. 298584, in Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago. Collected at Gilo, Imatong Mountain, Southern Sudan, 4° 02'N, 32° 51'E, at 2100 m, by R. Glen on 21.ii.1977.

Description: Top of head and below eye to chin Blackish Brown. Ear coverts paler, browner. Bill black. Grey supercillium. Back Cinnamon Brown to rump. Tail Dull Fuscous. Wings Fuscous, primaries narrowly edged Cinnamon, secondaries outer web Cinnamon, lightly transversely barred. Throat white. Upper breast fairly distinct band of Light Drab. Belly lightly washed grey-brown. Flanks darker greyish brown. Undertail coverts dusky white. Collectors notes: Iris, red-brown. Feet, flesh with brown wash on scales.

Weight and measurements: Wing 85.5 mm, tail 57.0 mm, bill 13.0 mm. Weight 27.0 g. Paratypes: collected in the same area as holotype between 19-21.ii.1977: 3 Reg. No. 298585, wing 86.0 mm; 3 Reg. No. 298579, wing 85.0 mm; 3 Reg. No. 298577, wing 86.0 mm; 3 Reg. No. 298582, wing 86.5 mm; 3 Reg. No. 298586, wing 86.0 mm.

Sub-adult: \$\times \text{Reg. No. 298578, wing 85.0 mm. }\times \text{Reg. No. 298588, wing 83.5 mm. Females do not differ from males.}

Additional specimens, one topotypical & Gilo, 4.xi.1978, G. Nikolaus, in NMN and 2&& from Gilo, taken 3-4.i.1978 in Museum A. Koenig, Bonn.

ALCIPPE ABYSSINICA Abyssinian Hill Babbler

This is a difficult and confusing species as there are so many combinations of different degrees of colour in the plumage of the head, back and underparts, with many intergrading forms in East African montane populations.

White (1962) recognised 3 races from within East Africa: the very distinct atriceps, which Deignan (in Peters 1964) regarded as a separate species, stierlingi from Tanzania and all the other East African races Deignan commits to abyssinica, including kilimensis and chyulu Moreau (1951a) recognised atriceps and stierlingi but thought chyulu might be a good race. Friedmann & Stager (1969) assigned specimens from Mt Nyiru, Northern Kenya to abyssinica, but they also thought that chyulu might be admissible. We now find we have a very distinct series from the North Nandi montane forest and from Mt Loima Forest. They are readibly separable from specimens

from the rest of East African Highlands, in which of course there are many intergrades; and, indeed, with more material it might be possible to separate populations from each of the "montane islands". However, we have no hesitation in describing the following 2 new races:—

Alcippe abyssinica poliothorax subsp. nov.

Holotype: & Reg. No. 17750/823, Field No. 163, in National Museum, Nairobi. Collected on track Kamwega-Kipsamoiti, North Nandi Forest, Kenya, 0° 20'N, 34° 58'E at 2133 m by Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien and National Museum, Kenya Joint Expedition on 15.xi.1978. The gonads were enlarged.

Description: Head, frons to nape and ear coverts dull Gull Grey, Bill, upper light pale horn, paler at the tomium; lower, pale horn with pale tomium. Back to rump Dresden Brown, browner, darker than birds from Mt Loima. Tail Fuscous, outer webs Dresden Brown. Wings Fuscous with outer webs Dresden Brown except outer four primaries which are narrowly edged pale. Throat and upper breast Light Neutral Grey, paler on the belly. Flanks Dark Olive. These birds viewed on the ventral surface appear almost blue-grey compared with other specimens.

Weight and measurements: Wing 68.0 mm, tail 58.0 mm, bill 11.0 mm. Paratypes: collected at the same place between 9.xi and 20.xii.1978, 23 33 and 15 99. Wings, 33 mean 66.4 (62.0–71.0) mm with 50% between 65.0–68.0 mm; 99, mean 65.3 (63.0–68.0). Another series of 10 specimens taken in 1979 in the same forest but further south near Chemisia, 0° 15′N, 35° E, match the type series. Set out in series from most localities in East Africa, the very pale ventral surface readily distinguishes this race.

Alcippe abyssinica loima subsp. nov.

Holotype: & Reg. No. 12371/823, in National Museum, Nairobi. Collected on Mt. Loima, Muruasigar, West Turkana, Kenya, 3° 02'N, 35° 00'E at 2100 m by Joseph Mwaki for A. D. Forbes-Watson, on 13.x.1962.

Description: Head, frons to nape and ear coverts Deep Quaker Drab. Bill as in A. a. poliothorax. Back to rump Antique Brown. Tail Fuscous with outer webs Antique Brown. Wings Fuscous with outer webs of primaries and secondaries Antique Brown narrowly edged pale, almost white. Throat and upper breast Gull Grey. Chin with a few faint white streaks. Belly paler than breast. Flanks very pale Olive. Overall on the breast and belly birds are paler than examples from the Kenya Highlands, North Nandi and Chyulu Range.

Weight and measurements: Wing 68.5 mm, tail 65.0 mm, bill 11.0 mm. Paratypes: 433 and 7 \$\pi\$ collected at the same site as the holotype between 22.x and 8.xi.1962 by J. Mwaki. 4 33 wings mean 70.2 (68.5-70.0) mm, 7 \$\pi\$ wings mean 68.8 (66.0-71.0) mm.

sheppardia aequatorialis Equatorial Akalat

Our fine series from the North Nandi Forest has been compared with examples from the slightly lower Kakamega Forest and with specimens from the Chepalunga Forest, West Mau (some 35 miles from Kericho), as well as with examples from Uganda and Rwanda. Set out in series by locality it was

obvious that the North Nandi birds, though superficially similar in general colouration, differed considerably from other races, being "golden-yellow" rather than brown, with a conspicuous pale throat. Grades of colour matched against Ridgway "Color Standards" showed differences are as follows:—

Locality	Throat	Breast	Flanks
North Nandi	Antimony Yellow	Yellow Ochre	Raw Sienna
Kakamega	Ochraceous Orange	Ochre Orange	Mars Yellow
Chepalunga	Deep Chrome	Mars Yellow	Raw Sienna

White (1962) only admits one race from the Imatong, acholiensis, considering all other populations to be nominate aequatorials. The North Nandi birds are so distinct we propose to give them subspecific status as:—

Sheppardia aequatorialis pallidigularis subsp. nov.

Holotype: & Reg. No. 17611, Field No. 177, in National Museum, Nairobi, collected on track Kamwega-Kipsamoiti, North Nandi Forest, Kenya, o° 20'N, 34° 58'E, at 2133 m by Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien and National Museum, Kenya Joint Expedition on 15.xi.1978.

Description: Crown, head and back dark olive or Medal Bronze. Tail slightly rufous, upper tail coverts more rufous. Undertail coverts Ochraceous. Reduced white pre-ocular spot. Faint grey supercillium shading to grey at the ear. Throat conspicuously pale, Antimony Yellow, contrasting strongly with the Yellow Ochre of the upper breast. Flanks Raw Sienna. Belly faintly yellow tinged white. Soft parts: iris very dark brown, bill dark horn; legs blueish-grey. Testes enlarged. Altogether more "golden-yellow" on the underside than nominate aequatorialis from Chepalunga (near type locality). Yellower than examples from Kakamega, which are darker, more brown than golden and without the distinct pale throat.

Weight and measurements: Wing 71.0 mm, tail 49.0 mm, bill 11.0 mm. Weight 16.0 g. Paratypes: 27 $\eth \eth$ and 1999, all from the same locality as the holotype, collected between 9.xi-20.xii.1978. Wings, $\eth \eth$, mean 67.3 (63.0-71.0) mm with 40% at 70.0 and over; 99 mean 65.7 (63.0-71.0) mm. Weights $\eth \eth$ mean 15.5 (14.0-17.0) g. 99 mean 14.8 (11.0-16.5) g.

Another series of 18 specimens taken in 1979 in the same forest but further

south near Chemisia, o° 15'N, 35° 00'E, match the type series.

Juveniles: Fledglings just assuming their first plumage are heavily spotted and spangled with Light Ochre on a darker Olive-Brown background, while the background of the chest is almost black, with feather tips arrow-marked in ochre. Belly washed with grey and flanks assuming the tawny ochre. Tails not as rufous as in adults. Upper mandible pale horn and lower dirty yellow with a slight dark tip. Gape yellow. The juvenile only gradually assumes the pale yellower gular spot. When slightly older the juvenile has a very distinct yellow throat and is still spangled on the head and back, with wing coverts tipped ochreous, the belly whiter and the flanks richer ochreous than the adult. Bill is then black, the chestband has lost the black background and is more rufous, with pale tips to the feathers.

(to be continued)